

**FOLLOW-UP:
2001 INVESTING IN THE
ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE
AUDIT**

BRIEFING REPORT 01-9
Full Report 01-9, [click here](#)

**REPORT DIGEST
SEPTEMBER 26, 2001**



STATE OF WASHINGTON
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND
REVIEW COMMITTEE

AUDIT TEAM

KARL HERZOG
Principal Management Auditor

RAKESH MOHAN
Principal Management Auditor

HEATHER MOSS
Senior Management Auditor

BOB THOMAS
*Principal Management
Auditor/Supervisor*

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Tom Sykes

Copies of Final reports and Digests are
available on the JLARC website at:

<http://jlarc.leg.wa.gov>
or contact
Joint Legislative Audit & Review
Committee
506 16th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501-2323
(360) 783-5171
(360) 786-5180 FAX

2001 INVESTING IN THE ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT

First Progress Report

JLARC completed this performance audit of 12 environmental quality grant and loan programs funded in the capital budget in January 2001. The audit resulted in six recommendations to improve investment effectiveness, performance measurement, and services to local governments. Two pieces of legislation were enacted during the 2001 Legislative Session in support of the audit recommendations.

Agencies have submitted their first of five annual progress reports on implementation of the recommendations. Overall, the reports indicate that, individually, agencies have been attentive to the recommendations. They have developed preliminary implementation plans and have discussed those plans with program stakeholder and advisory groups. In addition, some agencies have moved beyond planning to make initial adjustments to their grant and loan programs.

Two Areas of Concern

Although individual agencies have generally been attentive to the JLARC's recommendations, progress in two areas is of concern.

First, agencies have not collectively identified the cross-agency processes that will be used to improve the strategic coordination of environmental projects and applications for funding under JLARC's Recommendation 1, and the streamlining and integration of state agency grant and loan program services to local governments under Recommendation 5.

Second, funding to support ongoing operation of the Uniform Environmental Project Reporting System (UEPRS), the only cross-agency mechanism currently available for reporting and coordinating projects across agencies, is uncertain. If interagency support to sustain UEPRS lags, then an important tool to coordinate projects and track and report Legislative investments of capital budget resources in this important policy area will also be diminished.

As agencies continue to move forward in implementing the JLARC audit recommendations, these two areas warrant increased attention. JLARC in its continuing follow-up efforts will pay particular attention to these areas.